

**RECEIVED  
CENTRAL FAX CENTER****JAN 08 2007****IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

<b>In re United States Patent Application of:</b>	)	<b>Docket No.:</b>	<b>2771-617</b>
<b>Applicants:</b>	)	<b>Conf. No.:</b>	<b>8498</b>
<b>Application No.:</b>	)	<b>Art Unit:</b>	<b>1753</b>
<b>Date Filed:</b>	)	<b>Examiner:</b>	<b>OLSEN, Kaj K.</b>
<b>Title:</b>	)	<b>Customer No.:</b>	<b>25559</b>
<b>ELECTRODE ASSEMBLY</b>	)		
<b>FOR ANALYSIS OF METAL</b>	)		
<b>ELECTROPLATING</b>	)		
<b>SOLUTION, COMPRISING</b>	)		
<b>SELF-CLEANING</b>	)		
<b>MECHANISM, PLATING</b>	)		
<b>OPTIMIZATION</b>	)		
<b>MECHANISM, AND/OR</b>	)		
<b>VOLTAGE LIMITING</b>	)		
<b>MECHANISM</b>	)		

**FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION CERTIFICATE****ATTN: Examiner Kaj K. OLSEN****Fax No. (571) 273-8300**

I hereby certify that this document is being filed in the United States Patent and Trademark Office, via facsimile transmission addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date specified below, and transmitted to United States Patent and Trademark Office facsimile transmission number (571) 273-8300.

**2**

Number of Pages (including cover)

Steven J. Hultquist

January 8, 2007

Date

**RESPONSE TO DECEMBER 6, 2006 OFFICE ACTION IN U.S. PATENT  
APPLICATION NO. 10/672,433**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

2771-698

Sir:

This responds to the December 6, 2006 Office Action, wherein the examiner imposed a species election requirement against the originally filed claims 1-42 of the application, as between:

SPECIES A: Claims 2-17 and 22-36, directed to an in situ cleaning mechanism;

SPECIES B: Claims 18, 19 and 37-39, directed to a nucleation and metal growth optimization mechanism; and

SPECIES C: Claims 20, 21, and 40-42, directed to a voltage limiting mechanism, with claim 1 being generic to all species.

In response, Applicants hereby elect SPECIES A claims 2-17 and 22-36.

The claims readable on SPECIES A are claims 1 (the linking claim), 2-17 and 22-36.

Such election is without traverse, in view of the acknowledged presence of linking claim 1 (see discussion in the second paragraph at page 2 of the December 6, 2006 Office Action), but with the request that upon identification of allowable subject matter in such linking claim, the species election requirement be withdrawn in favor of rejoinder of the withdrawn claims of SPECIES B and C, with the rejoined claims being fully examined for patentability.

It therefore is requested that prosecution of the application proceed, consistent with the foregoing election.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: January 6, 2007

Steven J. Hultquist  
Reg. No. 28,021  
Attorney for Applicants

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY/  
TECHNOLOGY LAW  
Phone: (919) 419-9350  
Fax: (919) 419-9354  
Attorney File No.: 2771-617 (7492)

The USPTO is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment of fees properly payable for this document to Deposit Account No. 08-3284